

DETAILED ACTION

Response to BPAI Decision

1. In the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) mailed 6/26/09, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-19, 21-24, 26-30 and 32-51 were reversed. The following action is a response to the decision rendered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) mailed 9/19/07. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-19, 21-24, 26-30 and 32-51 are pending in the application and are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-19, 21-24, 26-30 and 32-51 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 10-12, 20-23, 32-34, 36, 43-44 and 49-50

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has interpreted the Examiner reliance on the teachings of Cochran, Tagawa, Walker and DeLorme as directed to receiving requests from users reflecting travel itineraries, but find that neither reference teaches or fairly suggests the claimed “steps of analyzing the travel itinerary specified in the request, including the selected origination and destination locations, to determine alternate different itineraries and determining a value for the specified travel itinerary”.

Because the prior art does not teach or disclose the above features in the specific manner and combinations recited in independent claims 1, 10-12, 20-23, 32-34, 36, 43-44 and 49-50 as further interpreted by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-19, 21-24, 26-30 and 32-51 are hereby deemed to be allowable.

Originally numbered dependent claims incorporate the allowable features of originally

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numbered independent claims 1, 10-12, 20-23, 32-34, 36, 43-44 and 49-50, through dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

In related art (5,331,546) Webber et al. teaches a trip planner that constructs itineraries using a variety of sorting mechanisms.

In related art (One-Stop Shopping) Smith discloses a travel and financial aggregators relating to brokered travel and hotel plans.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure as background material and is not of particular significance. These prior art patents fail to teach or fairly suggest steps of analyzing the travel itinerary specified in the request, including the selected origination and destination locations, to determine alternate different itineraries and determining a value for the specified travel itinerary.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT W. MORGAN whose telephone number is (571)272-6773. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon - Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, C. Luke Gilligan can be reached on (571) 272-6770. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert Morgan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3626